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Around the Conference

Pleasant Hill Community UCC has been in an extended period of discernment concerning the expansion of their facilities to accommodate the growth in attendance and membership, which they have been experiencing. They have entered conversations with an architectural firm, and are looking ahead to the possibility of a capital campaign stay tuned!

On December 20th at 6:00P, **Community Congregational UCC**, Montgomery, Alabama, opened its doors to host a Christmas season ecumenical worship service with other congregations from the city. They welcomed over 200 people to the service.

On February 14th, **Pilgrimage UCC**, in Marietta, Georgia, will dedicate the renovations of their sanctuary, which they have completed. The renovations expand the size of the sanctuary, and are a part of developing more flexible space to accommodate an expanding church school and youth programming.

From January 13th through the 15th, **Conference Campaign Director Steve Havey** and **Conference Minister Tim Downs**, with Campaign Co-Chairs, **Susan Mitchell** and **Bob Watson** conducted three visitor trainings in Chattanooga, Atlanta, and Birmingham. The visitors, who will be contacting each church in the Conference over the next two weeks, were introduced to the congregations they will be visiting, and the strategies for strengthening giving not only to the conference but also to each local church through campaigns in the life of each congregation. Following the visits with the churches, there will be workshops conducted across to conference to equip churches to be effective in telling their story, and sharing the story of the dynamic ministries of the conference.

Thank you to **Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, and Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta** for opening their doors to the 40-60 visitors being trained to do the visiting for the Campaign to Expand the Mission and Ministries of the Conference.



After three years of affiliation with the United Church of Christ, and a time during which they have been the most rapidly growing congregation in the Conference, **Holy Trinity Community Church, UCC**, is about to assume their own mortgage, taking it over from the Conference. The initial mortgage from the UCC Church Building and Loan Fund was granted to the Southeast Conference, which assumed the risk and responsibility

for a congregation, which was newly affiliated with the UCC. This next step represents an acknowledgement of the strength and vitality of the church's ministry. The Conference has been proud to be a partner to make this possible.

On October 17, 2009 at **Brookmeade Congregational UCC**, with 75 in attendance, Upper Room Fellowship celebrated its 5th Anniversary. It was a gathering of all four of Nashville area's UCC churches for a potluck supper. Cameron Trimble, Associate Conference Minister for Southeast Conference, was the speaker and a performance by the inspirational vocal duo from Houston: Jason & DeMarco!

Posted on January 20, 2010

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